



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Eagle junior Tanner Kriss (189 pounds), top, had a stranglehold on Oberlin's Jaxen Alstrom in their match Friday at the high school. Kriss defeated Alstrom in an 11-0 major decision. The Eagles defeated Oberlin in their final Northwest Kansas League dual 71-3 to clinch their second straight Northwest Kansas League title.

Eagles claim back-to-back league titles by beating Oberlin

By Joey Falkoff

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In their last Northwest Kansas League dual, the #1 ranked Colby Eagle wrestling team left little doubt who the class of the league was in 2008.

The Eagles wrapped up their second consecutive Northwest Kansas League title and finished off their second consecutive undefeated league dual season with a 71-3 victory over the Oberlin Red Devils Friday at the high school.

It's the first time in the last 35 years the Eagles have won back-to-back league titles and just the second time since 2001.

"I don't know the exact statistics, but league championships haven't happened too often for Colby in wrestling," said Eagle head coach Matt Sims.

It's also just the third time since 1975 the Eagles have gone undefeated in league duals.

"That's a pretty impressive accomplishment for our league," said senior Nick Kriss.

"There's some tough wrestling out here."

In a year in which the Eagles have never had a dual decided by less than 15 points, Sims felt Friday's performance may have been their best.

Colby won 13 of 14 matches and pinned the Red Devils on six occasions.

"I thought we wrestled really sharp tonight," said Sims. "We don't have anything tomorrow, so the kids weren't worried about losing weight. We're more confident and getting better, which is good."

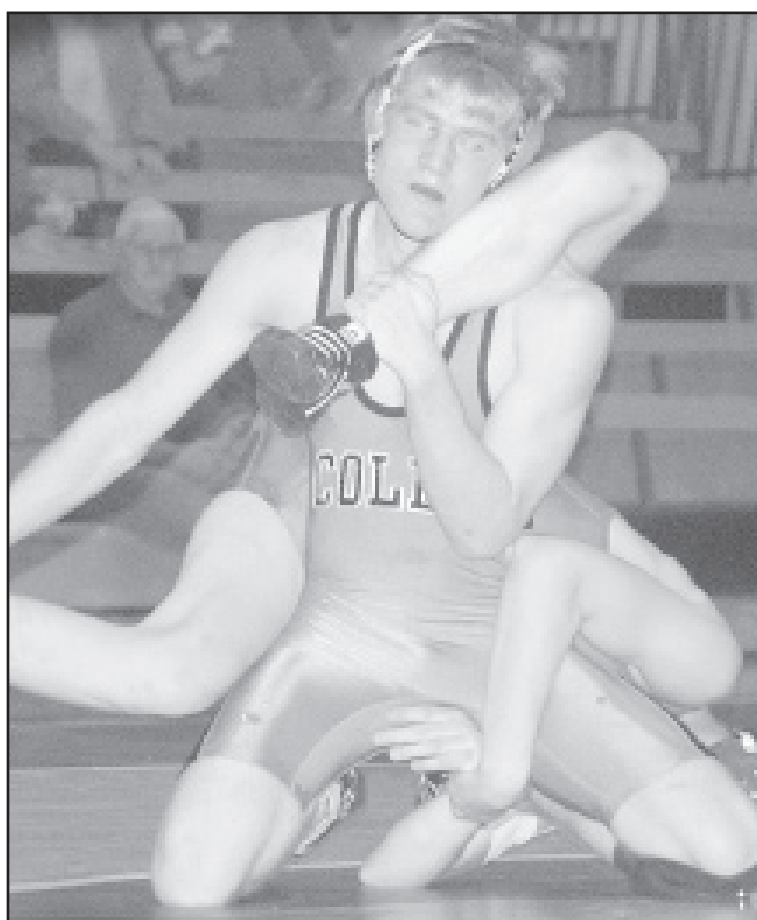
The Eagles were given 12 points right away as the Red Devils were open at 103 and 112 points.

Once the action began, Colby continued to add six points to home side of the scoreboard.

Colby got pins from Nathan Reed over Cody Kane (119 pounds), Bryan Brewer over Andrew Richards (125 pounds), Brent Luedke over Wiley Farr (130 pounds) and Hunter Olsen over Daniel Jordan (135 pounds) to give them a 36-0 lead.

Olsen recovered from a shoulder injury at the end of the first round and pinned Jordan with :35 left in the second round.

At 140 pounds, Heath Stephens avenged his loss to Everett Urban in the league tournament Jan. 26



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Colby junior Garrett Zwegardt (145 pounds), front, turned Oberlin's Gage Reichert upside down during their match Friday. Zwegardt was defeated by Reichert in a 2-0 decision.

with 3-1 victory to make the score 39-0.

"That's a big comeback for him," said Sims.

"Coach Schmitt and I worked with Heath this week, but he brought it on. He wanted to do this. It was good effort and good execution."

Garrett Zwegardt (145 pounds) was lone Eagle lose, falling in a 2-0 decision to Gage Reichert.

Ethan Stichel helped Colby bounce back at 152 pounds with a second round pin just before the horn sounded, making the score 45-3.

Eagle junior varsity wrestler Jordan Voss got a forfeit victory at 160.

At 171 and 189, Breck Arnberger (160 pounds) and Tanner Kriss (171 pounds) each had to wrestle up a weight because of an injury to 189 pounder Treat Bugbee at the league tournament.

It didn't seem to have an adverse effect on either wrestler. Arnberger defeated Nathan Simonsson in a 10-2 major decision and Tanner won an 11-0 major decision from Jaxen Alstrom.

Nick picked up his 29th victory

of the year at 215 pounds with a forfeit.

Taylor Brown (285 pounds) closed out the dual with pin on Colt Diedrich with eight seconds remaining in the second period.

"I can't single anyone out tonight, because I thought they all looked good," said Sims.

The victory allowed the Eagles to check off another goal on their journey for their first state championship since 2001.

They will be able to knock one more off Friday should they defeat Garden City in their final regular season dual that begins 6 p.m.

The Eagles defeated the Buffaloes in the semifinals of the Eagle Invitational in December and Sims knows they'll be ready to go.

"Our goal is to go undefeated in regular season duals," said Sims. "We beat them last year, and I know they want to win it this year, bad. It should be a close, competitive dual."

Friday is also senior night for the Eagles. Wark, Reed, Luedke, Olsen, Brady Rundel, Nick Kriss, Kyle Cox and Brown will all be honored prior to the start of the dual.

Fortin had 12 points and Katie Sperser finished one rebound short of a double-double with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Nikki Welsh and Samantha Ciani were also big on the boards. Welsh had nine rebounds to go along with her six points while Ciani had seven rebounds and six points.

Garden City got a great effort from Katie Novack who finished with 24 points and hit 6-9 three-pointers.

Colby will look for its second win in a row 6 p.m. Wednesday when they host Pratt Community College at the Colby Community Building.

Pratt enters play 6-16 overall and 3-6 in the league.

Eagle boys rout Oberlin 81-48

By Jim Merriott

The Oberlin Herald

Levi Schlick and the Colby Eagles wasted little time putting away the Decatur Community High Red Devil Boys Basketball team, downing them 81-48 Friday in Oberlin.

Schlick recorded a double-double and was the game's top scorer with 29 points and 13 rebounds. He was followed by Ethan Stover with 18 points and six rebounds.

The win improved the Eagles record to 11-4 and 4-0 in league play.

Oberlin was led by Lucas Juenemann with 16 points, two rebounds and three assists.

Jacob Fortin added 13 points, one rebound and one assist.

The Red Devils hung with the Eagles through the first quarter only trailing 21-17 heading into the second quarter, but fell apart, giving up 33 points in the second frame before heading into the locker room trailing Colby 54-31 at halftime.

The Eagles kept pouring it on in the third period as Oberlin couldn't find a way to stop Schlick's strong inside game under the basket.

Colby scored at will adding another 20 in the third period to lead 74-38 heading into the final quarter.

Other scorers for Oberlin were: Cody Haas, eight points, and five rebounds; Logan Fortin, five points, six rebounds, two steals, and one assist; Toby Peters, four points, one rebound, and one assist; Dakota Soderlund, two points, and two rebounds; and Chad Williams had one steal.

Other scorers for Colby were



JIM MERRIOTT/The Oberlin Herald

Eagle senior Todd Ziegelmeier, left, battled with Oberlin's Logan Fortin for a rebound during Colby's 81-48 win Friday at Oberlin. The win improved the Eagles record to 11-4, matching their win total of all of last year.

Todd Ziegelmeier, nine points; Stephen Dinkel, Cory Sager, six each; Corbin Stephens, five; Chaz Winger, four; and Andrew Flanagan, two points.

Oberlin dropped to 4-12 with the loss.

The Eagles return to action 8

p.m. tonight against Thomas More Prep-Marian (Hays) at the Colby Community Building. TMP was the runner-up in 3A last year.

A win tonight would top last year's 11 win total with five games remaining in the regular season and at least one in sub-state.

Shorthanded Lady Eagles still too much for Lady Red Devils

By Jim Merriott

The Oberlin Herald

Playing without leading scorer Lissa Mazanec, the number two ranked 4A Colby Lady Eagles improved to 15-0 by defeating the Decatur Community High Girls Basketball team 55-21 Friday in Oberlin.

Colby's choking full-court press defense left Red Devil fans scratching their heads as the Lady Eagles caused Oberlin to turn over the ball 37 times in the contest.

Colby turned the ball over just 13 times and outrebounded Oberlin 29-17.

"I was happy with the way we played," said Lady Eagle head coach Parker McKee. "It was a tough environment to play in because there wasn't a lot of people in the stands or emotion on the court."

The Lady Eagles shot lights out against the Lady Red Devils as three Colby players ended in double figures.

April Gee led Colby with 14 points, six rebounds, three steals, two blocked shots and one assist. She was followed by Paige Stephens with 12 points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists.

Colby jumped all over Oberlin outscoring the Lady Red Devils 20-6 in the first period.

The Lady Eagle defense gave Oberlin fits trying to inbound the ball after each Colby score.

The second quarter wasn't much better for the Lady Red Devils as Colby put the pedal to the medal adding another 10 points to the scoreboard to Oberlin's two.

The Lady Eagles led 30-8 at halftime.

Oberlin showed signs of life



JIM MERRIOTT/The Oberlin Herald

Lady Eagle freshman guard Kayla Hockersmith, right, played tight defense against Oberlin's Ashley Horton in Colby's 55-21 win Friday at Oberlin.

in the third quarter scoring nine points, but could not stop the sharp shooting of the Lady eagles in the paint.

Colby led 41-17 after three quarters.

The Lady Eagles sealed the deal in the fourth quarter outscoring the frustrated Oberlin team 14-4.

Other scorers for Colby were: Aubrette Stephens 10 points, four rebounds, four steals, and three assists; Taylor Young six points, 11 rebounds, three steals and one assist; Katherine Kaus six points; Kayla Hockersmith four points and four steals; and Tasha Wag-

oner three points, five assists and one steal.

Mazanec had a doctor's appointment today and her status for tonight's 6:30 p.m. game against Thomas More Prep-Marian Hays will be determined before game time.

McKee feels his team can continue to wreak havoc with their press tonight.

"TMP is a pretty good, scrappy team. From what we've heard they don't handle pressure well," said McKee. "We'll try to get out on the ball and force some turnovers."

Lady Trojans halt four game slide

The Colby Community College Lady Trojan basketball team overcame a seven point halftime deficit to break a four game conference losing streak with a 73-60 win at Garden City Community College Saturday.

It's the second win of the year for the Lady Trojans over Garden City, allowing them to improve to 9-14 and 4-5 in league play.

Trailing 33-26 at the half, the Lady Trojans shot 47 percent in the second half and outscored Garden City 47-27 to pull away from the Lady Buffaloes who fell to 8-15 and 3-6 in league play.

The Lady Trojans didn't attempt a free throw in the first half, but made 13-16 in the second half to help keep Garden City at bay.

Garden City was held to 31 percent shooting in the second half after a 48 percent shooting effort in the first half, which included hitting 5-6 shots from three-point range.

Garden was 10-20 from three-point range in the game, but hit just 5-14 in the second half.

Colby also controlled the boards, winning the rebounding margin 48-28.

The Lady Trojans had four players in double-figures led by Sandra Sormaz with 22 points.

Sormaz was 8-17 from the field, including 4-9 from three-point range. She also added six rebounds.

Whitney Archer scored 13 points on 6-14 shooting. Lauren

Trojans rally comes up just short in 75-73 loss at Garden City

By Trent Rose

Colby Community College
Sports Information

The Colby Community College men's basketball team added to their list of close-call losses this season, losing 75-73 at Garden City Saturday.

It was the Trojans eighth loss this year by fewer than five points. For just the second time in five games, the Trojans were at full strength as Koance Davis and Mike Boyd finished up serving suspensions from an earlier

altercation in a game with Dodge City.

The Trojans fell behind in the first half and trailed by nine points at halftime.

Koance Davis led the Trojans back behind his 28 point, 18 rebound effort. Mike Boyd had 15 points. Everson Lacerda had 10 points and 5 rebounds. Erick Peguero added eight points and 10 rebounds.

Andrew Engel was held in check in the game, finishing with just five field goal attempts and three points.

The Trojans, 6-17, are currently tied with Dodge City for last place in the West Division of the Jayhawk Conference with a 2-7 league record. Both Pratt and Butler are one game ahead of the Trojans at 3-6.

The Trojans host Pratt 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Colby Community Building.

The Trojans need to finish in the top four of the division to make the post-season conference tournament and are now three games behind Garden City for fourth place.